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Date: May 8, 2017

To: General Chairs Board of Directors, USA Swimming
Officials Chairs USA Swimming Officials
Rules & Regulations Committee USA Swimming Coach Members

From: Jay Thomas, Chair, Rules & Regulations Committee

Re: USA Swimming Rule 102.5 – Seeding, Lane Assignments, Swim-offs, and Order of Heats.

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1. This letter serves to modify USA Swimming Rules 102.5.1 B-D regarding the number of heats that are to be circle seeded in events longer than 400m/400y/500y. This change specifically includes the 400y Individual Medley event.
 2. Effective immediately, USA Swimming will modify USA Swimming rules as follows:
102.5.1
 - A. (Unchanged)
 - B. **Three heats** — Except for 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, next fastest in the second, next in the first. The fourth fastest swimmer shall be placed in the third heat, the fifth in the second heat, and the sixth fastest in the first heat, the seventh fastest in the third heat, etc.
 - C. **Four heats or more** — Except for 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the last three heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with B above. The heat preceding the last three heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers; the heat preceding the last four heats shall consist of the next fastest swimmers, etc. Lanes shall be assigned in descending order of submitted times within each heat, in accordance with the pattern outlined in 102.5.
 - D. For 400m/400y/500y, 800m/1000y and 1500m/1650y events, the last two heats of an event shall be seeded in accordance with 102.5.1A(2).
 - E. (Unchanged)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Thomas".

Jay Thomas
Chair, USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee